

HOOKEDNOW

Photo by Rick Hafele

DAVE SKIP RICK
HUGHES-MORRIS-HAFELE

THANK YOU FOR SUBSCRIBING TO *HOOKEDNOW* the online e-zine for fly fishers. Welcome to the December-January issue. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments at: sweltsa@frontier.com (please include "HookedNow" in the subject line for quicker replies). We also hope you will tell your fishing buddies about HookedNow.

December and January aren't exactly months we spend a lot of time on the water fishing. More often we spend it preparing for the next season, whether that's tying flies, reading some new or old inspiring books, or working on other skills to help us catch next year's fussy trout. So in keeping with the season, this issue of HookedNow covers three quite different topics, but each one suited to the particular passion of your HookedNow authors.

Contents this issue:

Dave Hughes - *Small is Better: My five favorite little books*

Skip Morris - *Tying Time*

Rick Hafele - *Bug ID: Improve your skill without getting a degree in Entomology*

Photo by Rick Hafele



© 2011 by HookedNow.

All rights reserved. Reproduction or reuse of any materials (including sharing of electronic files) is prohibited without the expressed permission of the publisher.

DAVE HUGHES- SMALL IS BETTER MY FIVE FAVORITE LITTLE BOOKS

Photo by Rick Hafele



I have a small set of five fishing books that have always been right up there toward the top on my list of favorites to pull off the shelf, re-read, mull over for any new considerations I might get out of them, and once again put them to use at both my tying vise, and out on streams and sometimes stillwaters. *Small* is the defining term for these books: each is minor in size, short in word count, easily read in a day, magically applicable to water after only an evening or two spent at the bench. I suspect I've read each of them at least three or four times. I'm sure that if Clotho spins her thread a bit longer, and Atropos refrains from snipping it, I'll read each more than once again. That is not, by the way, fly tying thread that I'm talking about.

A common condition, beyond their size, runs through all of these books. Each is tightly focused on a single, narrow aspect of fly fishing, and each treats its chosen subject extraordinarily well. They all offer beautiful treatments, which is not to say that all are written beautifully, or in some cases even written well. But they all inspire. Any time I pick up and re-read any part of any one of these books, I'm ignited with the desire to take the short hike to my vise, to tie a few of the flies about which it is written. Beyond that, and perhaps much more importantly, I'm then propelled out toward some trout stream or lake or pond on which I can fish these flies.

The following books are discussed in the approximate order to which I was exposed to them, not necessarily in the order in which they were written and published. For most of them, I have two and sometimes three editions on my shelves. I'll take note of my favorite of those.

***The Art of Tying the Wet Fly & Fishing the Flymph* by James E. Leisenring and Vernon S. "Pete" Hidy.** First published in 1941, only the second edition, released in 1971, included the material on the flymph. My Dad had only three fly fishing books on his shelves when I grew up; one of them was a copy of the first 1941 edition of this Leisenring and Hidy book. Much later in life, Rick Hafele and I were giving one of our early 'Entomology and the Artificial Fly' workshops in Boise, Idaho. Pete Hidy slipped into the back of the room, spoke quietly with each of us while the other was up front pontificating.

HUGHES-MORRIS-HAFELE



That weekend Pete invited us to his house, demonstrated on his kitchen table how to tie flymphs in his manner, gave each of us a flymph tying kit, including a body spinning block he'd constructed by hand. I'll always remember that he led us downstairs to the basement, where he had a slide projector set up. He sat the two of us in wicker chairs, one on each side of the projector, then stood behind it and presented an hour-long private slide show on tying and fishing flymphs.

The subject of the book is wet flies, a few of them what we now call soft-hackles, a few more traditional winged wets, but most of them wingless wets, which after Pete Hidy coined the term, are now referred to more commonly as flymphs. The focus of the book is how to tie wet flies so they

"...become alive in the eyes of the trout." Instructions include how to spin bodies on separate silks, so the under color of the thread percolates through the outer color of the fur, when the fly becomes wet, which a wet fly often does when you apply it against trout.

The book is short, its word count small, each of those words carefully chosen to fit its subject. It is illustrated with black and white photos and line drawings, of a quality that would not cut it today, though they adequately drive home all points being made. Surprisingly, few of those points are about fishing the flies you'll learn to tie from the book. Only a single tactic, the well-known Leisenring Lift, is recorded. Pete told Rick and me that the two of them planned to follow the first book with a second focused on tactics to fish their wet flies. The first book was subsumed by a war in which we became highly involved in its year of publication, and the second book was never written. Its absence is one of fly fishing's tragedies. Pete told us that the Leisenring Lift was one of the minor tactics Jim Leisenring, the master, used in his own fishing.

What this book inspires its reader to do is collect the materials unique to tying wets--British land bird wings and capes, furs such as mole, peacock herl left in the sun to turn bronze--and to tie in the manner devised to make the flies look alive. You'll spin separate bodies, and perhaps even build the simple spinning block with which to make those life-like bodies. You'll be inspired, as well, to hurry out and fish the flies, though you'll not be instructed as well as you'd wish in how to do it. I wrote about a tactic called the Hidy Subsurface Swing in my book *Wet Flies*; the same technique is covered in Ed Engle's fine new book *Trout Lessons*. That and the famous Leisenring Lift can be added to

HUGHES-MORRIS-HAFELE

standard wet fly tactics and Jock Scott and A. H. E. Wood's greased line technique to help you develop a full range of wet fly tactics.

My favorite edition of *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly & Fishing the Flymph* is the 1971 Crown printing published by Nick Lyons. Some consideration was given by Stackpole, a few years ago, to bring the book out in a new edition--I was to write the introduction--but the market was deemed too small, based on my own judgement, which might have been faulty. The book is not currently in print. One site on the net lists eleven used copies available, from \$54.25. So it's out there, if you'd like to be inspired to tie flymphs, right from the source.

***New Streamside Guide to Naturals and Their Imitations* by Art Flick.** First published in 1947, with a second edition released in 1969, and subsequent editions still in print. I came across this book in the 1969 edition shortly after my return from a dust-up in SE Asia. I was just getting back to fly fishing, and it was my first exposure to the concept of matching hatches...*Western Hatches* was ten years into the future at that point, and so little was available on insects in the West that it made sense to interpret from this little book about insects and imitations in the East.

The tight focus of the book is on a few of the most important eastern hatches, almost all mayflies, almost all somewhat large, almost all imitated with traditional hackled Catskill dressings, many of them over-hackled in the spider style. Flick is said to have quit fishing for a season or two; he carried his rod so he wouldn't look like a mad man out thrashing around with a net--you should see Rick out there on streams sometimes!--but he collected all the major hatches on his single home stream, the Esopus in upstate New York. He tied beautiful flies to match them. Imitations are always shaped by tradition and by water: Flick's traditions were those Catskill ties, and the water of the Esopus was brisk, so the hackled dressings were perhaps necessary.

Such high-floating dry fly dressings were ideal for the small Oregon streams on which I spent most of my time in those days. Not surprisingly, it was not difficult to find counterparts to those eastern insects in our western hatches, and even less surprisingly, those bushy ties worked as well out here as they did in the East. They were for a different



set of insects, in taxonomic terms, but trout in those days lacked microscopes and advanced degrees in entomology...some think those things are still true about trout.

The main thing the *Streamside Guide* did, in my own fishing, was open my eyes to the wise idea to collect what the trout were eating, and to fish flies that looked at least a little like the naturals. Flick's focus and philosophy were refreshing, at a time when I was frantically trying to capture every insect, and tie a separate imitation for each: "The better fly-tyers will realize they have more to gain than to lose in a reduction of the number of patterns, for they know that many of those now tied could very easily be eliminated." That fact has been multiplied many times since Art Flick wrote it, and the body of flies invented for trout has burst the dam, flooded the landscape.



Photo by Rick Hafele

Flick's treatment was spare, direct, unadorned with stories. Every word stuck to its point that you should collect a natural, parse out its primary parts, tie an imitation that looked a lot like it and floated on the water where you intended to apply it. It's a formula that works East, West, and everywhere in between. The book is illustrated with a few line drawings of the naturals, plus center-page color plates of the most important insects and the flies that imitate them.

Flick's *Streamside Guide* is still an exceptional read, and very cogent for those who fish hatches in the East. In the minor amount of collecting and fishing I've done there, I've encountered several of the species Flick listed. Modern patterns tend more toward exact imitation, with collar-hackled flies not nearly as common as they once were. It would be an interesting assignment, however, to tie a set of his flies, use them in appropriate circumstances, and see if they might not work as well as, perhaps even better than, more modern ties.

If you fish the West, then the book is more a prescription for observing your own hatches, finding--or inventing--your own dressings to match them. The book inspired me, when I first encountered it, to tie Flick's flies, go out and find hatches over which to fish them. It still inspires me at times to tie his gorgeous and graceful flies, to fish them on small streams, where they still work fine. But I am more inspired by the book to do my own research, to discover my own hatches, to tie flies that match them, and in the manner of Art Flick, once he got his research behind him, to go out and fish them.

My favorite edition of the book is the 1969 Crown hardbound. I also own a Winchester Press/Nick Lyons Books softbound from a later printing, and I believe the book has remained in print in one form or another almost continually. One site listed four used hardbounds from \$39.98.



Tying and Fishing the Fuzzy Nymphs by E. H. “Polly” Rosborough. First published privately in 1965, then as a booklet by Orvis in 1969, and finally by Stackpole Books in 1978. I found the book first in this late printing. Orvis at that time was featuring Polly’s full set of nymphs in their catalog. I cut the plates out of the catalog, and taped them to the front-piece of my copy of the book, giving me far better photos of each fly than the book itself held. I’m glad I did that; Orvis subsequently dropped most of the flies, and therefore the pictures, so you would be unable to find them now unless you could come up with an ancient Orvis catalog...which would probably be too valuable in to cut up for its fly plates.

The subject of Polly’s classic book, as its title describes it, is his unique fuzzy nymphs. He adhered tightly to it, describing how he originated them, how he tied them, how he roughed them up, and how he fished them. It’s a thorough treatment, in his unusual ‘Polly the Parrot’ voice, less well-written than well-spoken. But you’ll have no trouble extracting any of his meaning, and you’ll enjoy every moment you spend on it.

It’s more than interesting to note that Polly’s flies are neither tied nor fished by many folks so few years after the publication of his book. The reasons are fairly simple. Polly fished a rare set of waters in southern Oregon and northern California. They were, and still are, low-gradient waters, with mostly spring origins, and heavy populations of large swimmer mayflies, stoneflies, and caddis. As a consequence, Polly’s imitations were tied on long shank hooks, size 12 and up for the most part, and though they are nymphs in theory, they’re best when fished more like streamers in reality.

Polly never weighted his nymphs, and did not tie them often in small sizes. I violated a couple of his rules to take the largest redbreast I’ve caught to date on the Deschutes. I tied his Muskrat, usually a size 10 or 12 nymph, on a size 18 hook, and weighted it slightly. I fished it as the trailer behind a salmon fly nymph, hooked a trout with which I had to be quite gentle, and brought it in after a long fight at the edges of a brutal riffle. The trout turned out to be hooked on the trailer; it was 20 inches long, shaped like a football, and must have weighed four pounds then, which has it up around six pounds now, some years later, when I’ve learned to estimate trout sizes more accurately.

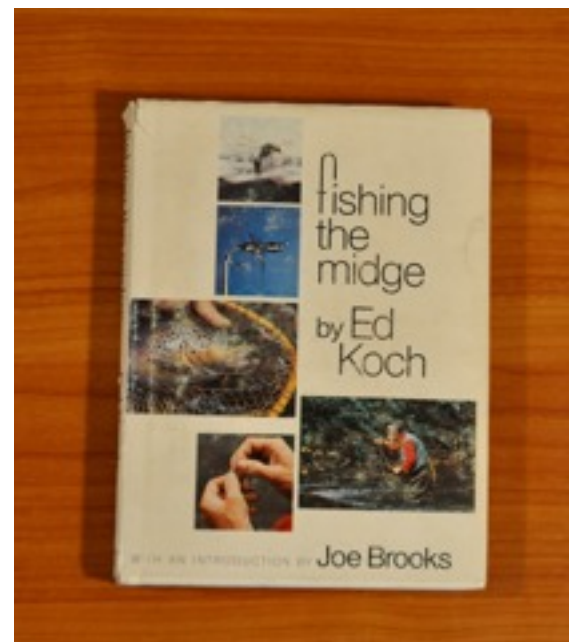
My copy of Polly's book has color plates on the end plates, not as useful as one would want today, but fine back in 1978. The few black and white photos and line drawings illustrate critical points, but it's fortunate that Polly's words--Polly's voice--describes quite well what you need to know to tie his flies.

Though you will not necessarily want to tie and fish all of Polly's nymphs, you should learn quite a bit from the descriptions of his tying techniques. The main thing you'll get out of the book, however, is separate from the flies, or even his techniques, unique as they were to his unusual set of waters. The larger lesson you can learn from Polly's book is the need to go out on your home waters, collect the nymphs trout feed on there, and tie your own set of flies to fish appropriately in the conditions you encounter. The true lesson from Polly Rosborough is his vision: his interpretation of naturals into fly patterns, and his application of tactics that worked where he fished those nymphs that looked more like streamers. What you see on your own waters will be different; what you tie to fish there will not be the same; the tactics you use will not be Polly's. But if you can see your own waters the way he saw his, tie your own set of imitations the way he did his, learn to fish your own flies on your own waters, you'll be applying Polly's lessons beyond any that you will ever get from more directly applicable books.

My favorite edition of *Tying and Fishing the Fuzzy Nymphs* is my 1978 Stackpole hardbound, with the codicil that it contains my Orvis catalog plates. You won't have an easy time finding those. The book has been in and out of print in other versions. A quick check of the net revealed a site with fifteen copies from \$14.95. There is little reason not to own this book, and thereby to be inspired by the lessons of Polly Rosborough.

***Fishing the Midge* by Ed Koch.** First printed in 1972 by Freshet Press, this fine little book was released in a second edition by Stackpole Books in the 1990s. It is one of my favorite works because of its handy size, fine illustrations and photos, and instructive vignettes that take each of his creations out on a stream, shows how it was created. The best of fly fishing writing is the kind in which the author takes you to the stream with him. Koch's is a rare one of that fine kind.

The subject of the book is midge flies, with the word being used in the sense of a small imitation--size 16 to 24--rather than the entomology meaning of the word



midge: insects in the order Diptera, family Chironomidae. There are those, but there are also midge flies tied for small mayflies, caddis nymphs, scuds, sowbugs, and anything else tiny. With this tight focus on small flies, the book has quite a broad range in the world of trout food forms.

Ed Koch's writing is among the best in the fly fishing world, and his little stories will have you delving deeply into the origins of each of his fly patterns. He fished many of the most storied waters in the East: the Yellowbreeches, Letort, Falling Springs, Big Spring, and others where trout are as selective as they get. I spent a day walking the Letort near Carlisle, PA with Ed; it was enlightening in terms of seeing, on the ground, the visions that he'd created in my mind...but it was January, snow lay on the banks of the little spring creek, and we didn't even try to wet a line.

This book is illustrated with black and white photos of tying steps, and the finished flies. The photos are among the best, in terms of showing detail, and Koch's step directions are as clear and simple as I've seen. It's part of what makes this book such a gem: tight focus, small flies, beautiful descriptions of both tying and fishing, and an aesthetic, thoughtful layout by the late Joan Stoliar, one of my favorite characters in all of fishing--designer of the life-saving FolStaff and the little Fly Tyer's Carry All portable tying kit that I still have stashed away in a bottom drawer of my fly tying desk. Joan designed most of the Freshet Press fly fishing books of an earlier era, and all that she designed stood out as the best in their class. She was also a sweet lady, but she is another story.

The book has central color plates that show some, though not all, of the natural insects and their imitations. Like the black and white step photos, they're excellent.

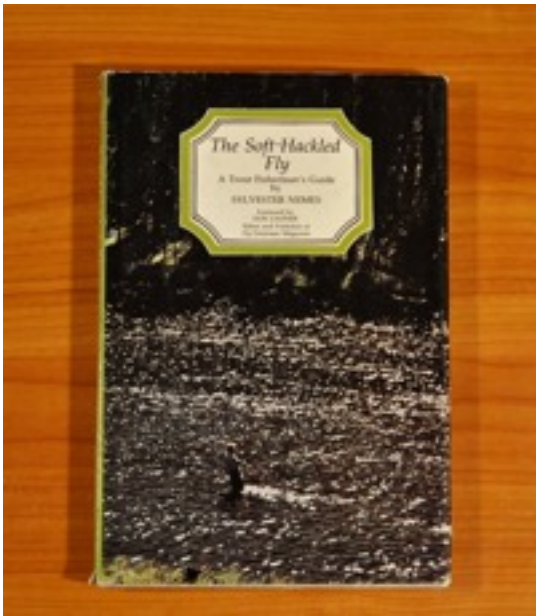
This is a beautiful little book that you can put to your own use on trout streams to this day, especially if you fish spring creeks and tailwaters where trout are often selective to small naturals. It makes no difference that its emphasis is eastern; with such small imitations, everything tends to become the same, all around the fly fishing world. More than anything, it will inspire you to buy a small fly box, tie a set of Ed's small flies, and take them with you on your next trip to a stream.

Sources for books.

You can google fly fishing books and quickly come up with several sources for them, including the obvious Amazon, which dominates book sales to the point that little authors like me quail before them. But there are several specialty fishing book sellers--Jim Adams, Gary Estabrook, Judith Bowman, a few I hope I'll be forgiven for not having at the forefront of my brain at this moment. One that might not come up in your search is The Angler's Bookcase; Craig Douglass in New Mexico is one of my favorites. Be sure to track him down.

HUGHES-MORRIS-HAFELE

My favorite edition of *Fishing the Midge* is the Freshet Press 1972 printing designed by Joan Stoliar. I found four copies listed from \$14.95 on my favorite angling website. The Stackpole edition is just as good, if not quite so pretty.



***The Soft-Hackled Fly* by Sylvester Nemes.** First released in 1975, published by the author, then kept in print by Stackpole Books, and recently re-released with all the original material plus new chapters on tying tiny soft-hackles. I was drawn to the book immediately after it was published, in part because of my fascination with wet flies, in another large part because of my love for small books focused on single subjects. Syl passed away in February of this year; his book is the ultimate tight treatment of a very important aspect of fly fishing that had been overlooked in this country for many, many years. Though he is often criticized for not 'inventing' soft-hackles, Syl never did make any claims in that direction, and clearly credits Yorkshire border region originators of soft-hackled

dressings. His beautiful little book did, however, bring these flies to the attention of American fly fishers, and they've been taking lots of trout, for those who fish them even casually, ever since.

I'll give you a recent example, though it's not the intent of this short review to step out on streams. I just got back from a trip to Arkansas, giving a workshop for the great North Arkansas Fly Fisher's club in Mountain Home and the surrounding area. The day before the workshop, my host and club president Mike Tipton took me out to the Norfork of the White River to squeeze in a few hours fishing. While I rigged up with nymphs to fish a 'shoal'--a riffle anywhere else--Mike tied on a size 12 March Brown Spider soft-hackle, right out of Syl's book by way of my book *Wet Flies*, and instantly began dancing trout. My nymphs, meanwhile, fished from the opposite side of the riffle, over what I presume was the same set of trout, went largely ignored. Until I made a switch, Mike out-fished me at a rate of about three to one.

I first met Sylvester, and his fine book, in an interesting way. I read it, was captured by it, was enthused to tie a bunch of his soft-hackles, and thence propelled out to fish them. I did very well. I got permission to review the book for a magazine. In my review I

HUGHES-MORRIS-HAFELE

quoted Syl as saying the flies and the method did not often catch big trout, that his largest on them was a 20-inch brown from the Madison in the Park. The review prompted a somewhat indignant letter from Syl; he wanted me to know he'd just been on the Yellowstone and caught two trout over twenty inches long in one day. I reminded him that I'd only quoted him, and we became friends by correspondence for some years. Finally I sent my book to him, asked if he'd autograph it.

He did more than that. I'd tied each of his fourteen flies listed in the book, hooked them into the pages next to their dressings. It was a sort of desecration, but mine was a soft-bound, so I didn't mind reducing the value of the book. But Syl tied each of the flies, and slipped his into the pages alongside mine. He labeled mine DH and his SH, and I now have a soft-bound copy of the book with the listed dressings all tied by me--mine look crude compared to his!--and by Syl. At the top of the same page, he wrote: "Dave, how'd



you like to find this in an attic in 2054? Good luck till then. Syl." Neither Syl nor I will be around to know about it, but I do hope somebody finds this copy of the book in an attic at mid-century, and I also hope they know the value of what they've found.

I fished with Syl and his wonderful wife Hazel a few times in subsequent years, and there would be stories in that, but again the subject here is his book, and like his book, I ought to stick more tightly to my subject. His topic was soft-hackles: their origins, his introduction to them, his experiences with them, how to tie them, how to fish them. No

HUGHES-MORRIS-HAFELE

book I've ever read has stuck as strictly to what it's about, nor has any ever written about its narrow subject so sparsely and beautifully. Much of the beauty in Syl's prose is the way it fits its subject: very tight sentences describing a very simple subject.

The book has just a few black and white photos of the flies, and steps in tying them, as well as one color plate, showing the fourteen listed dressings, and some color shots of them working in the water. The photos are not overabundant, but they are adequate to show the process of getting a soft-hackle together. In truth, the photos are not needed; the pictures are in Syl's words.

This book has become perhaps my favorite fishing book of all time. I love getting it out, reading a chapter, tying a few flies, just for the pleasure of creating such beauty--those little soft-hackled wets, with their speckled partridge legs, look more alive than anything else you're likely to tie. Trout seem always to agree.

My favorite edition of the book is the 1975 Chatham Press printing, which I own in both hardbound and the soft-bound I've described. The new Stackpole edition has valuable information on tying small soft-hackles. A quick check of the web revealed thirteen used copies from \$11.95. If you haven't read this small book, tied from it, and gone fishing with a bundle of enthusiasm afterward, I promise you've got a treat coming.



Photo by Rick Hafele

Note: Dave's latest book is *Pocketguide to Western Hatches*, covering all the insects you'll need to match in both streams and stillwaters. It is published by Stackpole Books, released in 2011, and should be available from your local fly shop for just \$21.95. Dave recently spent a day fishing with the book in a pocket, just to prove it's easy to keep it handy.

SKIP MORRIS - TYING TIME



Photo by Carol Morris

Fly tiers tend to get particularly dedicated to their craft during the chilly months when fishing options are down to few or none. So, if there ever was a time for a tying article, it would be now.

When HookedNow editor, Rick Hafele, asked me to write the article I kicked it around in my head and, in the end, decided to be impulsive and, rather than tie specific fly patterns, to explore techniques that can be applied to the tying of many flies--really interesting techniques. So there's no real theme here, except that these techniques just...felt right.

They are 1. adding a bright spot atop a fly as an indicator (which can be a real asset on a dark, low-riding dry fly, even if the dressing doesn't call for it) 2. a couple (among several) ways of toughening peacock-herl bodies, and 3. making a CDC puff atop an emerger-fly.

The first technique is for a handful of mostly big dry flies. When a fly rests down on the water, it's amazing how hard it can be to spot, especially if it's dark, and even if it's big. If it's small and dark and low-riding...forget it. But a bright little top-notch of chartreuse or yellow or red makes all the difference. I'm not talking here about dry flies with lots of hackle, the sort of flies that stand tiptoe on the water--the Stimulator, Elk Hair Caddis, the Wulffs... I'm talking about little black beetle imitations and blackish hackle-less imitations of the salmonfly stonefly.

The second technique could become a habit--many trout flies feature peacock, and fly tiers have loved peacock herl for at least a century. But peacock herl (and less-popular but unique and useful ostrich herl) is notoriously fragile. When I was a kid I was intrigued by the Tellico nymph and tied a bunch, but their rib, a strand or two of peacock herl, broke right away each time I fished them. Very discouraging. Peacock's wonderful, but it always needs help.

The third technique just makes sense - in light of the great popularity of CDC flies - since a buoyant tuft is among the best uses of this odd yet very practical material. But instead of presenting the CDC tuft below in photos and captions, I'll demonstrate it on video. You'll find the web link on page 17 at the end of this article.

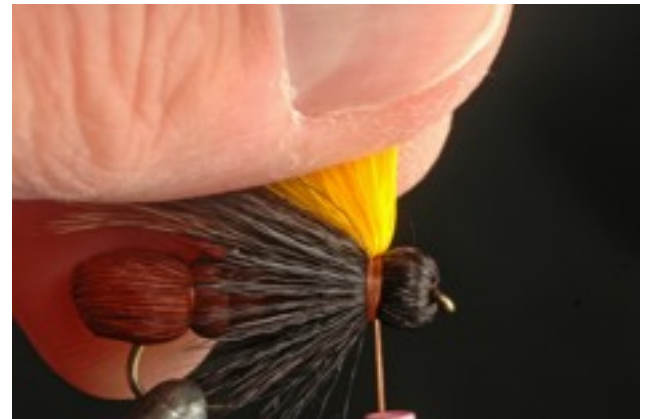
THE BRIGHT SPOT (photos by Skip Morris)

1. A bright indicator is especially common--and easy to make--on bullet-head flies (and some beetle flies and foam flies). With the head completed and the rubber-strand legs (if there are such legs) bound along the sides, double some brightly dyed deer hair over the thread.

My favorite indicator color is yellow, but orange and chartreuse and white and red all have their believers.



2. Slide the hair down the thread to the top of the thread collar.



3. Bind the hair with a few tight thread turns gathered closely.

4. Pinch the sides of the hair, pull back and hold the ends of the hair (and the rubber-strand legs, if there are some), pull the thread tight and then maintain tension on it, and whip finish the thread in front of the hair. Trim the thread, and then add head cement around the whip finish.



5. Pull the hair up tightly and trim it straight across, one clean snip. (High-quality scissors in good condition help immensely.)



The finished fly!



Yarns can work too for indicators on the tops of flies. Those cottony yarns made for fish-egg flies are actually quite buoyant and are my favorite yarns for fly indicators. Just bind the yarn atop the fly as you did the hair, whip finish the thread as before, trim as before. The result will be a fuzzy buoyant dome you can spot from far away on dark water.



Below: Common dyed deer hair is in front, and a bit dull. The brightly colored hair behind it is dyed snowy white deer-belly hair, and is the best for indicators.



HERL (photos by Skip Morris)

Peacock and ostrich herl need help--they'll break quickly without some sort of reinforcement. But herl bodies on nymphs and streamers often look good with ribs, and many herl flies call for ribs. Ribbing can toughen herl. So, let's tie Al Troth's pheasant Tail nymph--tough.

1. Make the tail, bind on the copper wire (copper wire makes a really tough rib, and the pattern calls for it anyway), bind on the pheasant-tail fibers for the abdomen. Wind the fibers for the abdomen, measure and bind on the fibers for the wing case and legs.



2. Bind on and wind peacock herl for the thorax, but don't do anything special to toughen the herl yet.



3. Pull the wing-case fibers forward and bind them *lightly*, just to get them out of your way for now.



4. Wind the wire forward as ribs over the abdomen.
5. Unwind the thread turns holding the wing-case fibers while holding the wire tight. Wind the wire through the peacock herl to the hook's eye--three turns should do it; too many will make the herl look skimpy.



6. Bind the wire, trim its end, complete the wing case, and double back some of the fibers' tips for legs and bind them. Trim off the fiber-tips you did not use for legs, build and complete a thread head. Now you have made both the vulnerable fibers of the abdomen and the downright fragile herl durable--the strong wire protects them both.



Some tiers feel the rib protects best when it's wound opposite the normal direction, the spiral of thread and the spiral of herls creating a helix.

Here are the results of a *really* fast technique for toughening herl. You simply wind the herl back, twist the thread to narrow, and spiral the thread forward through the herl.



[How to Tie a Quick & Tough Peacock Herl Body](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) to see video demonstration on how to tie a quick and tough peacock herl body.

HUGHES-MORRIS-HAFELE

HENRY'S FORK SALMONFLY Mike Lawson

HOOK: Light to heavy wire, 2X or 3X long, sizes 8 to 4.

THREAD: Orange 3/0.

BODY: Burnt-orange elk hair.

WING: Natural-gray elk hair.

BULLET HEAD and HAIR COLLAR: Black elk hair.

INDICATOR: Brightly colored deer hair or egg yarn.



TROTH PHEASANT TAIL Al Troth

HOOK: Heavy wire, standard length to 1X long, sizes 20 to 10.

THREAD: Brown 8/0 or 6/0.

TAILS: Pheasant-tail fibers.

RIB: Copper wire.

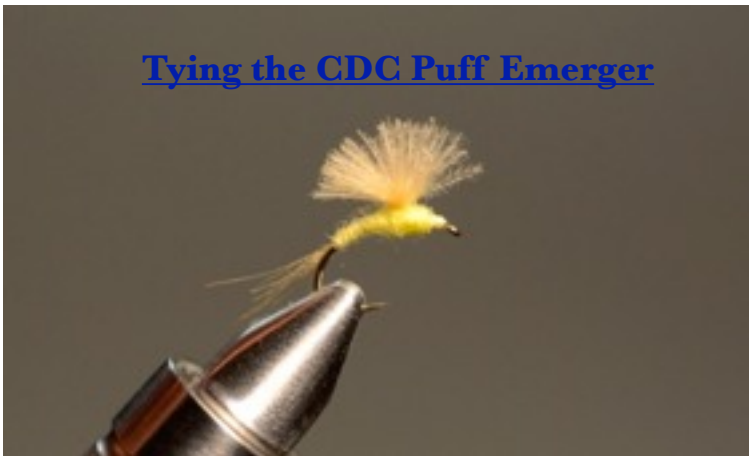
ABDOMEN: Pheasant-tail fibers.

WING CASE and LEGS: Pheasant-tail fibers.

THORAX: Peacock herl.



[Tying the CDC Puff Emerger](#)



[The CDC Puff Emerger](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) for CDC Puff Emerger tying video. This simple technique can be used to imitate a wide variety of insects that emerge in the surface film.

RICK HAFELE – NAME THAT HATCH

IMPROVE YOUR BUG ID SKILL WITHOUT GETTING A DEGREE IN ENTOMOLOGY

Photo by Rick Kruger/Marc Williamson



One of the more confusing aspects of fly fishing for trout is identifying the specific insect or “hatch” that trout are taking. Of course one first has to decide that being able to put a name on a bug is worthwhile to begin with. Maybe yes, maybe no.

By this I mean that knowing the name of a hatch won’t necessarily help you catch more trout. If you get a good look at what’s on the water - see its size and shape, and watch its behavior and how fish are feeding on it - then you should be able to select an appropriate pattern, know how to present it, and in the process fool plenty of trout. So why bother with the whole problem of knowing what to call it? Several reasons come to mind.

First, let’s say that for some unknown reason you *didn’t* fool any trout during a hatch, even though you saw it up close and selected an appropriate pattern. This means that either your pattern or your presentation, or both, weren’t right. So when you get home you decide to figure this out. What have others done during this hatch to catch trout? What patterns do they recommend and how do they fish them? But wait, how can you track down this information without knowing the name of the insect? Well, you can’t. Maybe you’ll get lucky and see a photo in a book or on the web, or hear someone else talking about the same hatch and give it a name (but is it the right name?), or maybe you’ll just guess and figure close is close enough.

Second, maybe you *do* catch a bunch of trout during a certain hatch. Now you want to share your success with others and explain the pattern and tactic you used. Once again you will need to give the insect on the water a name in order to let others know what your fly was imitating so they can be prepared when they run into the same insect. And maybe you came up with a new pattern that worked extremely well and you want to explain to others how it’s the perfect fly for the @#**@? hatch. Oh, darn, now what was that insect?

Last, what if there is no hatch and no feeding trout and you want to figure out what fly might be good to use. Remembering that all you need to do to get some idea about what the trout are eating is pick up a few rocks from a riffle and see what nymphs are most abundant, you stoop over and lift a nice cobble from the stream.

Hmm...There are many different kinds of nymphs running around. Which one is most likely ending up in the trout's stomach? And then you remember that mayfly swimming nymphs are really important to imitate when present. But what do they look like and how can you tell them apart from the other nymphs?

All three of these scenarios present situations where knowing how to recognize different insects would be quite useful. But there's one more reason I'm going to give that has nothing to do with *usefulness* at all. This reason is just about enjoying your day more by really understanding and appreciating the diversity of life found in streams and lakes. When it comes to richness of life, streams and lakes are quite remarkable. There's as much or more diversity and drama on the bottom of stream as on an African savanna. And when it comes to unusual adaptations and behavior, I can't imagine a place with more unusual approaches to life than some of the insects found in streams and lakes. But without some knowledge of who's who, it's like walking through a tropical jungle without knowing any birds.

So, I'm not saying you need to get better at recognizing different insects, but if you think you'd like to, then what follows are some ideas that I think will help you improve your hatch identification skills.

Getting Started

One of the big challenges with learning to recognize all the important hatches is a direct result of their incredible diversity. The actual variety of aquatic insect species numbers in the thousands. So, to begin with, our goal is not to become entomologists that can identify everything they see to species. Not even entomologists can manage that. To become an expert taxonomist one has to specialize in just one order, family, or even a single genus of insect. The result of this amazing, but confusing, diversity is that fly fishers actually lump numerous species together when naming a specific hatch.

The blue-winged olive, or BWO, mayfly hatch is an excellent example. The BWO common name refers to the very abundant and important mayflies in the family Baetidae, and usually the genus *Baetis*. But there are other genera of Baetidae that are called blue-winged olives as well, such as *Diphetor* and *Acentrella*, to name just two. The number of species within all the possible genera adds up to well over fifty. Therefore, when a fly fisher finds a blue-winged olive hatch in progress it could be one of over fifty different species, and there's really no way for the fly fisher to know which one. No wonder there are dozens of fly patterns in different sizes and colors that could be needed when trying to imitate BWOs.

Many anglers are unaware of this lack of accuracy when it comes to naming insect hatches, and become frustrated that they can't be more specific. The reality however, is that for all but a few hatches that are comprised of a single species (*Pteronarcys californica* for the salmonfly hatch, for example), nearly all hatches referred to by anglers consist of multiple species that can't be easily distinguished, even by trained entomologists. On the plus side, understanding this level of diversity will help you understand why the BWO dun pattern you used last week on Beaver Creek doesn't match the BWO dun you see on the water today only ten miles away on Rock Creek.

Learning to recognize the important hatches also means becoming familiar with both the underwater nymphal and larval stages, as well as the terrestrial winged adult stages. No small task. So take your time and don't expect to figure this out over night. As they say - enjoy the process!

Step 1 - Know the Orders

If you aren't able to quickly recognize the underwater and adult stages of each of the major orders of aquatic insects, that's where you should start. Here's a list of those orders:

Mayflies - Ephemeroptera

Stoneflies - Plecoptera

Caddisflies - Trichoptera

True Flies - Diptera

Dragonflies & Damselflies - Odonata

Backswimmers & Water boatmen - Hemiptera

Alderflies & Hellgrammites - Megaloptera

Aquatic Moths - Lepidoptera

Beetles - Coleoptera

You can prioritize your efforts by focusing on mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, and Diptera. These four orders produce 90 percent or more of the hatches fly fishers need to know. The following table summarizes the characteristics of these four orders for nymphs/larvae and adults.

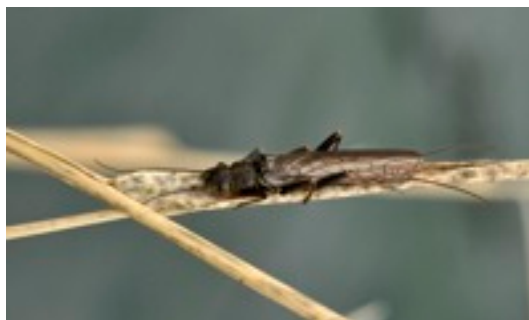
Nymph or Larva?

These two terms can be rather confusing. Technically speaking "nymph" refers to the juvenile stage of insects without a pupa stage, while "larva" refers to the juvenile stage of insects with a pupa stage.

In fly fishing "nymph" generally refers to the underwater stage of any insect, and to the patterns that imitate them.

Major Order ID Traits *(photos by Rick Hafele unless noted)*

Order	Nymph/Larva Characteristics	Adult Characteristics
Mayflies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tails: 3, though a few species have only two. • Gills: Gills of various shapes and sizes always found on three to seven abdominal segments • Legs: 6 • Wingpads: Dark brown to black wingpads present on mature nymphs. Two pair generally present, but only one pair visible. • Antennae: Present but small and inconspicuous. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tails: 2 or 3 depending on species. • Wings: Generally 4 with the hind wings 1/2 or less the size of front wings. Some species with only 2 wings. • Wing position: Wings can't fold back flat on top of abdomen - stand straight up or straight out to each side. • Flight: Generally moderately fast to slow erratic up-and-down flight.
Stoneflies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tails: 2 • Gills: Short, slender, finger-like gills found on the underside of the thorax and/or head. Many species with no visible gills. • Legs: 6 • Wingpads: Two pair of dark brown to black wingpads present on mature nymphs. • Antennae: 2 long well-developed antennae present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tails: 2 - though they vary greatly in length depending on species. • Wings: Four wings of nearly equal size present on most species. Adults of a few species lack wings, or have short non-functional wings. • Wing position: Wings lie flat on top of abdomen when not flying. • Flight: Generally fly slow and relatively straight. Wings often beat slow enough to see wings in flight.



HUGHES-MORRIS-HAFELE

Order	Nymph/Larva Characteristics	Adult Characteristics
Caddisflies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tails: None - Tip of abdomen with two small "anal hooks." • Larvae of most species build portable case out of many different materials. • Gills: Present or absent. When present they are slender finger-like filaments on various abdominal segments. • Legs: 6 • Wingpads: None • Antennae: 2 - but they are so small they can't be seen without a microscope. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tails: None. • Wings: Four with front and hind wings of nearly equal size - though hind wings usually a little larger. • Wing position: Wings fold up in inverted "V" or tent shape when not flying. • Flight: Generally moderately fast to fast with very erratic motion both up-and-down and side-to-side.
Diptera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tails: None • Gills: Often none, but can also be slender filaments on various locations. • Legs: None • Wingpads: None • Antennae: Usually 2, but often too small to see. • Head often greatly reduced and not visible, or hidden inside thorax. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tails: None • Wings: 2 only. Hind wings have become short clubbed stalks called "halteres." • Wing position: Wings held out to sides or flat on top of abdomen when not in flight. • Flight: Wide range of habits. Most fly moderately fast and in a rather straight line.



Step 2 - Learn the key groups in each of the four major orders

Once you are able to quickly recognize the orders of insects in both the underwater and adult stages, you are ready to take the next step. Because of the huge diversity of insects in each of the four major orders, it's not reasonable to try and learn all the hatches

at once. A better approach is to learn key “groups” of hatches within each order. I’ve included a break down of these groups for the four major orders in the tables below. As you go through these groups, the two most important characteristics to pay attention to are tails (number & length) and gills (number, shape, & location).

Mayflies			
Group	Nymphs	Adults	Major Hatches
Swimmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bodies very streamlined or torpedo shaped. Two or three tails, middle tail often shorter than two outer tails, or equal in length and fringed with fine hairs. Gills on abdominal segments 1-7 and usually oval shaped. Moderate to very small in size (12's - 22's) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hind wings very small or absent in small species, 1/3 size of front wings in moderately large species. 2 tails Color variable - usually gray, brown, or olive. Moderate to very small in size (12's - 22's) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue-winged olives Speckle winged quills Brown duns Black & Gray drakes
Crawlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bodies somewhat rectangular in shape, not torpedo shaped, and sometimes quite stout with spines. Three tails equal in length with or without fringe of fine hairs. Gills variable, often just on abdominal segments 3-7 or 4-7. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hind wings absent on Tricos, otherwise about 1/3 size of front wings. 3 tails Vary widely in size (10's to 24's). Vary widely in color 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western green drakes Flavs Tricos Mahogany duns Sulphurs Hendrickson/ Red quill



Mayflies

Group	Nymphs	Adults	Major Hatches
Clingers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bodies flat, eyes on top of head, and head widest part of body. Two or three tails, though most species with three. Gills on abdominal segments 1-7 and typically large, oval plate-like in shape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hind wings present and typical about 1/3 size of front wings Head retains flattened appearance of nymphs. 2 tails Size typically 12's-16's Vary widely in color, but most often brown to light tan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quill Gordon Light Cahill American March brown Western March brown Little Yellow May
Burrowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bodies large, and tapered. Three tails fringed with fine hairs. Large feather-like gills. Front of head with tusk-like mandibles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hind wings 1/3 to almost 1/2 size of front wings Two or three tails Very large - 6's - 10's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hex Eastern Green Drake Brown Drake Yellow Drake



Stoneflies

Group	Nymphs	Adults	Major Hatches
Little Brown Stones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally small sized stoneflies with light to dark brown bodies (size 14's - 18's) 2 tails length of abdomen Gills present or absent. When present appear as single small filaments near base of legs or under head. Well developed antennae 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively small sized stoneflies size 14's - 18's Bodies light brown to black. Wings light gray, often with dark markings. Some species without wings. 2 tails - range in length from almost too short to see to length of abdomen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter stones Little brown stones <p>Note: Many species hatch during the winter and thus called the winter stoneflies. Other species emerge in early spring to late fall.</p>



Stoneflies

Yellow Stones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small to moderate size stoneflies (size 10's to 16's). • Bodies pale yellow to light brown, usually with distinct dark markings on thorax and abdomen. • 2 tails length of abdomen. • Gills present or absent. Consist of small single filaments at base of legs or underside of head when present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate to small stoneflies in size 10's to 16's. • Bodies pale to bright yellow (yellow sally's), or light to dark brown (brown willow flies). • 2 tails roughly length of abdomen • 4 wings, though wings may be significantly reduced in some species. • Body often with dark markings on thorax and abdomen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow Sally • Brown willow flies or Skwala <p>Note: Brown willow flies are the larger stones in this group and typically emerge in the spring. Yellow Sally's are fairly small and mostly emerge in the summer.</p>
Golden Stones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate to large stoneflies in sizes 6's to 10's. • Gills form clusters of slender filaments at base of legs • 2 tails length of abdomen. • Bodies light tan to dark brown with distinct marking on upper surface. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate to large stoneflies with golden brown bodies (size 6's - 10's) • 2 tails length of abdomen. • 4 wings. One species (<i>Claassenia sabulosa</i>) with greatly reduced wings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden stones <p>Note: Nymphs require 2-3 years to reach maturity and thus many immature nymphs are small in size (12's-14's), and outnumber large mature nymphs.</p>
Giant Stones or Salmon flies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large stoneflies in sizes 4's to 8's when mature • Gills form clusters of slender filaments along underside of abdomen • 2 tails much shorter than abdomen. • Bodies light brown to black without dark markings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large stoneflies with golden brown bodies (size 4's - 8's) • Bodies brown on top and orange underneath. • 4 wings. One species (<i>Claassenia sabulosa</i>) with greatly reduced wings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmonfly <p>Note: Nymphs require 2-3 years to reach maturity and thus many immature nymphs are small in size (12's-14's), and outnumber large mature nymphs.</p>



Caddisflies			
Group	Larvae	Adults	Major Hatches
Free-living Caddis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate sized caddis - 10's to 14's. • Bodies dark olive to bright green. • No tails, but with well-developed anal hooks. • Gills absent or present. Single filaments on abdomen when present. • Do not build a case or shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderately large, size 10's - 14's. • Bodies olive to green. • Wings mottle gray. • Antennae roughly body length. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Rock Worm <p>Note: 100+ species in North America.</p>
Net-Spinning Caddis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate to small caddis - 12's to 16's. • Bodies range from dark brown, to olive, to bright green. • Do not build a portable case, but attach spider-like web of silk on sides of stones in riffles. • Gills are clusters of slender filaments along underside of abdomen. • Well developed anal hooks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate to small, size 12's - 16's. • Bodies tan to brown. • Wings light tan to brown with light spotting. • Antennae roughly body length. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotted sedge • Little sister sedge
Case-building Caddis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larvae construct portable tube-like cases made out of large variety of materials and shapes. • Wide range of sizes, from 6's to 22's. • Body color varies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of sizes and colors. • Four wings of variable color. • Antennae one to three times body length. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saddle-case caddis • October caddis • American Grannom • Mother's Day caddis • Dark blue sedge • Long-horned sedge • and more!



Diptera			
Group	Nymphs	Adults	Major Hatches
Midges/ Chironomids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body varies in size from moderate to tiny: 12's to 30's. • Distinct head capsule. • No legs. • No tails • Gills small single filaments near head and tip of abdomen, sometimes absent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body in many colors and sizes, but generally small (12's - 30's) • 2 front wings. Hind wings appear a small clubbed stalks called "halteres." • Wing shorter than abdomen. • Do not bite. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midge or Chironomid <p>Note: There are literally thousands of species of this group in streams and lakes. Just learn to recognize main group - midges - and then observe color and size.</p>
Crane flies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large to moderate size, 8's - 14's. • Light tan to dark brown, tubular looking larvae. • Head hidden inside first thoracic segment. • No thoracic legs, but short "prolegs" maybe present on abdomen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large to moderate in size, 8's - 14's.. • Long legs • 2 wings: Front pair roughly body length. Hind wings have become "halteres." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crane Flies • Mosquito hawks



Photo by Dave Hughes



Photo by Carol Morris

Step 3 - Get some good reference books on aquatic insect identification

I suspect this is more than enough to digest in one article. Look carefully at the photos and listed characteristics until you feel like you have a good sense of each subgroup within each order. To get to the next level in hatch identification, you will be well served by reading some of the excellent books that discuss insect hatches. Quite a few books have been written and illustrated for the fly fisher on this vary topic. Below are some that I consider to be well worth your time if you wish to really get proficient at hatch id. Some of these books fit easily into your fishing vest, others will work best at home or in your vehicle. Because of the large

HUGHES-MORRIS-HAFELE

diversity of hatches, many of these books are regional in scope, which makes them less confusing and more useful when fishing in the region covered. This list is by no means complete, so I apologize to those I have not included.

- ~ *Pocketguide to Western Hatches*, by Dave Hughes (Stackpole Books, 2011)
 - ~ Dave's newest book. Check it out!
 - ~ *Western Mayfly Hatches*, by Dave Hughes and Rick Hafele (Amato Pub, 2004)
 - ~ *An Angler's Guide to Aquatic Insects and Their Imitations*, by Rick Hafele and Scott Roederer (Johnson Books, 1995)
 - ~ *Bugwater*, by Arlen Thomason (Stackpole Books, 2010)
 - ~ *Hatch Guide for New England Streams*, by Thomas Ames, Jr. (Amato Publications, 2000)
 - ~ *Caddisflies: A guide to Eastern species for anglers and other naturalists*, by Thomas Ames, Jr. (Stackpole Books, 2009)
 - ~ *Fishbugs: The Aquatic Insects of an Eastern Fly Fisher*, by Thomas Ames, Jr (Countryman Press, 2005)
 - ~ *Hatch Guide for Lakes*, by Jim Schollmeyer (Amato Pub, 1995)
 - ~ *Caddis Super Hatches*, by Carl Richards and Bob Braendle (Amato Pub, 1997)
 - ~ *Aquatic Entomology*, by Patrick McCafferty (Science Books International, 1981)
- And if you find that you just can't get enough about identifying aquatic insects, then you may want to get the volume used by most aquatic entomologists:
- ~ *An Introduction to the Aquatic Insects of North America (fourth edition)*, edited by R.W. Merritt, K.W. Cummins, & M.B. Berg (Kendall/Hunt Pub, 2008)



Will knowing the name of the mayfly on the water help you catch that big brown? Yes & no. But it will help you understand why you did or didn't and enjoy the day that much more.

Say What?

Welcome to our new section where we will attempt to answer reader's questions. In each issue we will pick one to three questions received from readers - assuming of course we get any questions from readers - and give our best shot at an answer. So, here goes, and thanks to the two readers who provided these questions.

1. *As a beginning sea-run cutthroat fisherman, I am interested in knowing more about the appropriate fly patterns and sizes to use in the Puget Sound area. The fly shops sell a wide variety of sizes and patterns. Should I carry a variety of sizes for use depending on fishing location? Do I use a different size for beach fishing vs. estuary or stream? Jeff, Port Ludlow, Wa*

Hi Jeff,

Your quarry is both the most mysterious fish I know and the least understood among fly fishers in general. For all those HookedNow subscribers outside the Pacific Northwest of North America, here's a bio on this moody anomaly among the trouts. the sea-run cutthroat trout is--exactly as it's name states--a cutthroat trout that runs to salt water. You'll find him in the salt and in rivers from California to southern Alaska.

What his name doesn't tell you is that he's moody and impulse. Even the sharpest sea-run chasers typically go out with no real idea whether they'll find him or not. In protected salt waters he's sought on points where tidal currents break and along certain beaches. He may show up any time in rivers--whenever he fancies a trip up fresh waters. The most reliable times to find him in lazy pools and in riffles and runs are late summer through fall. If you don't enjoy mystery and need consistency in your fishing, forget sea-runs.

So, on to your question about flies. I tend to go smaller than many do--that's because if a ten-inch sea-run hits, i want to hook him--I have nothing against ten-inchers, and some days they're all you can find. And I've caught lots of big sea-runs on small flies. So a size 8, 1X long nymph hook would be my standard size, and in saltwater it can hook you a ten-pound silver salmon too. Sometimes I'll fish a size 6 1X long nymph hook. With some sea-run flies tied on long shank hooks, this would mean size 10, perhaps even 12, hooks. Most sea-run flies are attractors, and most of the time attractors work as well as anything in both fresh and salt waters. My favorite sea-run flies are the Spruce (perhaps with a bead head), Jim Dandy, my own Raccoon and (tied small) Morris Minnow. The Reverse Spider and Knudsen's Spider are standards with proven records. For a dry fly, a Woolly Wing or Royal Wulff or Mikulak Sedge--sometimes dry flies will murder sea-runs, even in salt water.

Best of luck, Jeff, with this fascinating and perplexing fish.

Skip Morris

And [HERE'S A LINK](#) to a video on sea-run cutthroat fishing by Skip and Rick.

2. *How many types of fly lines, rods, and reels would be adequate for the average trout and bass fly fisher?*
Stan, Portland, OR

Stan -

That's a big question, especially throwing bass into the picture. Let me start with the trout side of things. Ed Engle, a fishing writer, guide, and good friend from Colorado, has made the statement more than once that everything in fly fishing is regional. By this he means the specific types of equipment and tactics that work best usually differ in different regions of the country, or even within one state. I think this certainly applies to your question here Stan. So, given that a general approach won't be the right approach everywhere, I'm going to give you my general take on this.

Let's start with a good all around rod, line, and reel for trout fishing. For me that's a 9 foot, 6-weight rod, paired with a weight forward floating line, on a simple reel large enough for at least 75 yards of backing. This outfit will work for 90% of your trout fishing, as well as a lot of bass fishing, situations. BUT, just like there's no perfect spouse (except my wife, of course!) this won't be the perfect outfit in all cases. In addition I want at least one smaller and lighter outfit and one heavier outfit. For the lighter one I'd go with an 8 1/2 foot 4-weight rod, with a double taper floating line and reel of appropriate size. For the heavier outfit I'd suggest a 9 1/2 foot 8-weight rod, with a weight forward line and reel to go with it. The larger outfit will be great for many bass fishing situations where the 6-weight is too light.

I think these three outfits would be "adequate for the average trout and bass fly fisher." But, who stops with *adequate* and who wants to be *average*? So, in practice most fly fishers I know, who have been at it for ten years or so, definitely have more than three rods, even if they only use two or three most of the time.

Lines are another issue. For stream fishing I rarely use anything but a floating line. But for stillwaters a variety of lines will definitely come into play. Beside floating you will need a sink-tip, a slow or moderate full sinking line, and at times a fast full sinking line. You won't need these sinking lines for the 4-weight rod, but they will be good to have for the 6-weight for sure, and one or two for the 8-weight (maybe the sink-tip and fast sinking lines).

So this adds up to roughly 3 rods, 6-8 lines, and at least 3 reels with three to five extra spools.

Last, I can also say that in general the number of fly fishing outfits someone has, sometimes correlates to their number of spouses. I hope this helps and enjoy all those rods, lines, and reels!

-Rick Hafele-

**Readers, if you have a question for Skip, Dave, or Rick
just email it to:**

sweltsa@frontier.com

**Please include "HookedNow Question" in the subject
line.**



Can you ever have too many rods!

News from Dave, Rick, & Skip!

2-Day workshop with Skip & Rick - February 25 & 26, 2012 - Issaquah, WA

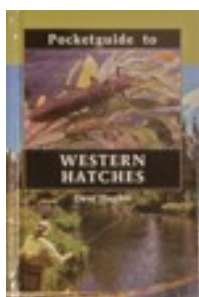
MASTERING WESTERN RIVERS AND LAKES

Do you ever -

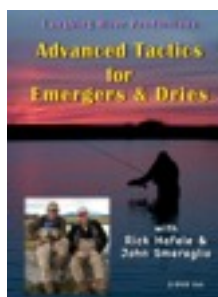
- Fish the same few fly patterns over and over, even when they aren't working?
- Feel confused about what fly to use when your favorite patterns fail?
- Wonder what presentation to use when feeding trout ignore your fly, even when your pattern looks right?
- Wonder what to do when there's no sign of feeding trout?
- Typically rely on others - like fly shop staff - to tell you what the fish are taking?

You'll get answers to these questions and more.

**More Info & Registration details at:
hookednow.com/events**



Dave's newest book, *Pocketguide to Western Hatches*, just out September 2011, is now available.--\$21.95--Stackpole Books, 2011



Rick's newest instructional DVD (2-disc set) with John Smeraglio titled, *Advanced Tactics for Emergers & Dries*, is now available. Order it online at www.laughingrivers.com now and in your local fly shops. \$29.95 - Laughing River Productions, 2011



Skip's latest book, *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple II, Advanced Techniques*, offers thorough instructions for tying many great patterns for fussy trout. Frank Amato Pub, 2009

To learn more about Dave, Skip, and Rick's latest publications, where they are speaking, or to book them for your own program, go to their personal websites at:

Skip Morris: <http://www.skip-morris-fly-tying.com/>
Rick Hafele: <http://www.rickhafele.com/RH/Home.html>
Dave Hughes: <http://dave-hughes-fly-fishing.com/>